

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An image pickup apparatus comprising:
image pickup means for picking up an image of an object;
5 operation means for operating an image pickup timing for image picking up the object to be recorded; and
white balance control means, having a first mode of acquiring information about white balance in
10 accordance with first operation by said operation means and executing image pickup operation of said image pickup means in accordance with second operation at a timing after the first operation timing, and a second mode of acquiring information about white balance in
15 accordance with the second operation, for controlling white balance of an image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of the information about white balance which are obtained in the first and second modes.
- 20 2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises display means for displaying an image picked by said image pickup means, said white balance control means controls white balance of the image displayed by said display means, and the information about white balance which is acquired in
25 the first mode uses information about the white balance

of the image displayed by said display means.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
said white balance control means computes information
about white balance in the first mode on the basis of
the image picked up by said image pickup means at the
first operation timing.

4. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
said white balance control means uses information about
white balance which is used for controlling white
balance of the image displayed by said display means at
the first operation timing, as information about white
balance in the first mode.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said white balance control means acquires information
about white balance in the second mode on the basis of
the image picked up in accordance with the second
operation.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, further
comprising:

strobe means for illuminating an object; and
storage means storing information about white
balance when said strobe means illuminates the object,
wherein said white balance control means computes

information about white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation by using a white balance coefficient, as an initial value, which is obtained on the basis of information about white balance acquired on the basis of the first operation and information about white balance stored in said storage means, when said white balance control means causes said strobe means to illuminate the object in the first mode.

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7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said white balance control means controls white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of a white balance coefficient computed on the basis of computed information about white balance and information about white balance stored in said storage means, when said white balance control means causes said strobe means to illuminate the object in the first mode.

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8. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said white balance control means controls white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of information about white balance acquired in the second mode and information about white balance stored in said storage means, when said white balance control means causes said strobe

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means to illuminate the object in the second mode.

9. An image pickup method comprising:

an image pickup step of picking up an image of an
5 object;

an operation step of operating an image pickup
timing for image picking up the object to be recorded;
and

10 a control step, having a first mode of acquiring
information about white balance in accordance with
first operation and executing image pickup operation in
the image pickup step in accordance with second
operation at a timing after the first operation timing,
and a second mode of acquiring information about white
15 balance in accordance with the second operation, of
controlling white balance of an image picked up in
accordance with the second operation on the basis of
the information about white balance which are obtained
in the first and second modes.

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10. A method according to claim 9, further
comprising a display step of displaying an image picked
in the image pickup step, wherein said control step
controls white balance of the displayed image, and the
25 information about white balance which is acquired in
the first mode uses information about the white balance
of the image displayed in said display step.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein said control step computes information about white balance in the first mode on the basis of the image picked up in the image pickup step at the first operation timing.

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12. A method according to claim 10, wherein said control step uses information about white balance which is used for controlling white balance of the image displayed in said display step at the first operation timing, as information about white balance in the first mode.

13. A method according to claim 9, wherein said control step acquires information about white balance in the second mode on the basis of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation.

14. A method according to claim 9, further comprising:
20 an illumination step of illuminating an object;
a storing step of storing information about white balance when the object is illuminated in said illumination step; and
wherein said control step computes information
25 about white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation by using a white balance coefficient, as an initial value, which is

obtained on the basis of information about white balance acquired on the basis of the first operation and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in said illumination step in the first mode.

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15. A method according to claim 14, wherein said control step controls white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of a white balance coefficient computed on the basis of computed information about white balance and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in said illumination step in the first mode.

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16. A method according to claim 14, wherein said control step controls white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of information about white balance acquired in the second mode and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in said illumination step in the second mode.

17. A recording medium for computer-readable storing a program for executing an image pickup method, the image pickup method comprising:

an image pickup step of picking up an image of an

object;

an operation step of operating an image pickup timing for image picking up the object to be recorded; and

5 a control step, having a first mode of acquiring information about white balance in accordance with first operation and executing image pickup operation in the image pickup step in accordance with second operation at a timing after the first operation timing, 10 and a second mode of acquiring information about white balance in accordance with the second operation, of controlling white balance of an image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of the information about white balance which are obtained 15 in the first and second modes.

18. A medium according to claim 17, wherein the method further comprises a display step of displaying an image picked in the image pickup step, said control step controls white balance of the displayed image, and the information about white balance which is acquired in the first mode uses information about the white balance of the image displayed in said display step.

25 19. A medium according to claim 18, wherein said control step computes information about white balance in the first mode on the basis of the image picked up

in the image pickup step at the first operation timing.

20. A medium according to claim 18, wherein said control step uses information about white balance which 5 is used for controlling white balance of the image displayed in said display step at the first operation timing, as information about white balance in the first mode.

10 21. A medium according to claim 17, wherein said control step acquires information about white balance in the second mode on the basis of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation.

15 22. A medium according to claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:

an illumination step of illuminating an object;
a storing step of storing information about white balance when the object is illuminated in the 20 illuminating step; and
computing information about white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation by using a white balance coefficient, as an initial value, which is obtained on the basis of information 25 about white balance acquired on the basis of the first operation and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in said illumination

step in the first mode.

23. A medium according to claim 22, wherein said control step controls white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of a white balance coefficient computed on the basis of computed information about white balance and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated said illumination step in the first mode.

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24. A medium according to claim 22, wherein said control step controls white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of information about white balance acquired in the second mode and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in said illumination step in the second mode.

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